

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /117 W

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R 250949 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4340

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2275

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, RP, ID

SUBJECT: MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, AND PHILIPPINES TO MEET IN HONG KONG

SUMMARY. GOM MAY 23 INFORMED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION THAT HIGH- LEVEL MALAYSIAN, INDONESIAN AND PHILIPPINE DELEGATIONS WOULD BE MEETING IN HONG KONG ON JUNE 1 TO DISCUSS MUSLIM PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. FMA OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT IN VIEW OF MAKEUP OF PHIL DELEGATION, GOM NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT GOP PREPARED TO GIVE UP SABAH CLAIM. END SUMMARY

1. BRITISH HICOM OFFICIAL TODAY INFORMED EMBOFF THAT ON MAY 23 HE WAS SUMMONED TO MFA AND CONFIDENTIALLY INFORMED BY RAZALI ISMAIL, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SEA, THAT HIGH- LEVEL MALAYSIAN, INDONESIAN AND PHILIPPINE DELEGATIONS WOULD BE MEETING IN HONG KONG JUNE 1 TO DISCUSS MUSLIM PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. CONFIDENTIAL

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MALSYAINS REPORTEDLY FELT OBLIGED TO SO INFORM HICOM
BECAUSE MEETING TAKING PLACE ON BRITISH TERRITORY.

2. MALAYSIAN DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY MINISTER OF
INFORMATION GHAZALI SHAFIE AND WILL INCLUDE DONALD
STEPHENS, MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, ZAIN AZRAAI,
KEY FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER TO PM AND L. P. VORAH, EXPERT
ON INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. RAZALI APPARENTLY GAVE BRIT HICOM OFFICIAL APPROVED
LINE TO EFFECT THAT THIS MEETING ILLUSTRATES FURTHER
ABILITY OF ASEAN MEMBERS TO DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES OF
COMMON CONCERN, IN APPARENT EFFORT TO DOWNPLAY EXPECTATIONS
AS REGARDS SETTLEMENT OF SABAH CLAIM. HE ADDED THAT IN
VIEW OF MAKEUP OF PHIL DELEGATION, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS
COMPOSED OF " MARCOS POLITICIANS", MALAYSIANS NOT OPTIMISTIC
THAT GOP PREPARED TO RELINQUISH CLAIM.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PAPERS HAVE RECENTLY CARRIED REPORTS
OF POSSIBLE TRIPARTITE MEETINGS ON SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES
ISSUE, NO MENTION OF HONG KONG MEETING HAS YET EMERGED.

5. SABAH CLAIM IS CENTRAL TO MALAYSIAN POSTION ON
SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE PROBLEM AND KEY TO SUCCESS OF UPCOMING
HONG KONG MEETING, AS FAR AS GOM CONCERNED, IS WHETHER
OR NOT MANILA WILLING GIVE UP SABAH CLAIM. IF GOP
EXPRESSES WILLINGNESS TO DROP CLAIM, WE BELIEVE GOM
WOULD COOPERATE IN FINDING METHOD AMENABLE TO
MARCOS' PRESTIGE REQUIREMENTS.
CHESLAW

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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